VERMONT FARMER.

AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER FOR THE RURALISTS OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE.

VOLUME II. ST. JOHNSBURY, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1872. NUMBER 51.

Vermont Farmer

PUBLISHED WEEKLY,

AT ST. JOHNSBURY, VT.,

BY

CUMMINGS & HOSKINS.

Terms.—One copy, per annum.....$2.50
If paid strictly in advance.....2.00
For Special terms to Clubs see second page.

Rates of Advertising.

Short advertisements, 75 cents per inch for first insertion. Each subsequent insertion, 25 cents per inch. No charge less than $1.00.

Favorable rates for extensive and yearly advertisers may be had upon application to the publishers.

For the VERMONT FARMER.

HANDY THE STEERS.

Handy the steers, boys, handy the steers;
'Tis sport and profitable too
To yoke them up and drive them about,
And learn them what to do.
'Tis sport to see their awkward gait;
First this and then that way they go,
And then, with a spring, steers, boys, and all
Plunge headlong into the snow.

Handy the steers, boys, handy the steers;
With kindness they soon will learn
To move about, and work quite well,
And a very good income earn.
Their awkward gait will soon disappear,
Their fears all soon pass away,
And a sleek yoke of oxen before you will stand,
Their master's voice to obey.

Handy the steers, boys, handy the steers;
E'en the sport is enough for to pay,
As you carefully lead them, then drive them along,
Then hitch to the sled and away.
Away, yes away now the teamster-boy goes,
To the wood, to the village or mill,
So soon to return with his *wonderful* load,
Which he rows would stick Molly or Bill.

Handy the steers, boys, handy the steers;
You'll find on the whole it will pay
Thus to spend a few hours, once or twice in a week,
And indeed, if you can, every day.
They'll amply repay you for all of your time
when father gives you your share
Of the money they earn while working the farm,
Or the premium, perhaps, at the fair

Handy the steers, boys, handy the steers.
The writer was once, when quite young,
A general in skill, steers to break,
On this he was seldom outdone;
And now, amidst callings both solemn and great,
We often look back with delight
To the scenes of our boyhood, when the pen and the slate
Were exchanged for the steers, Star and Bright.
—VERMONTER.

CONTENTMENT.

"If I could own that meadow fair,
That spreads so tempting by my door,
I'd crave no other boon than this,
And be content, nor wish for more."

So Farmer Gray laid down his pipe,
And viewed again, with smothered sigh,
The strip of land that lay beyond—
So green, so lovely to his eye.

As time rolled on, he gained the prize,
And then, when years were nearly spent,
He found, as many have before,
Possession does not give content.

And thus through life we always wish
For something just beyond our grasp,
And then, when we would fain enjoy,
'Tis but a phantom that we clasp.

Pen-Spatters.

A rogue is a roundabout fool.

Modesty and merit are a handsome couple.

Without good-nature, man is only a sort of vermin.

If it is the truth, what does it matter who says it?

When is it right to take any one in?—When it rains.

Many children, many cares; no children, no felicity.

Search others for their virtues, and thyself for thy vices.

A failure in a good cause is better than a triumph in a bad one.

A promising young man is all very well; better have a paying one.

The test of a man's honesty is in the sacrifices he will make to preserve it.

To love is to place our happiness in the happiness of another.

What fruit is the most visionary?—The apple of the eye.

Wise men have but few confidants, and cunning men, none.

A wize man never enjoys himself so much, nor a phool so little, az when alone.

There is no trade or employment but the young man following it may become a hero.

The finest compliment that can be paid to a woman of sense is to address her as such.

Pen-makers are a bad lot. They make people steel pens, and they say they do write.

Plato says, God has so framed his laws that it is for the advantage of every one to observe them.

The higher life begins for us when we renounce our own will to bow before a divine law.

We get at the outlines of things from what we read and hear, but the filling up must be through our own experience.

Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good actions; try to use ordinary situations.

The popular notion of genius is—of one who can do almost everything—except making a living.

A strenuous soul hates cheap success. It is the ardor of the assailant that makes the vigor of the defendant.

Trying to define love, is like trying tew tell how you kum tew brake thru the ice,—all yu know about it iz, yu fell in and got ducked.

Such as the natures are, separately taken, such will be the collective sum: no crowd of pigmies can add themselves up into a God; and self-love multiplied by self-love will only become self-love of higher power.

Cure for dyspepsia: Have a right good talk, with a funny anecdote or two, and half a dozen hearty laughs, with each meal. This shovelling in the provender in solemn silence will give dyspepsia to an ostrich.

"Here's your in-waders," shouted a member of the 11th Mississippi regiment as Gen. Lee's veteran army plunged into the Potomac on its way to Gettysburg. "And here's your wetter'uns," echoed a soldier of the old 4th Alabama.

What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined for life, to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, to minister to each other in silent, unspeakable memories at the moment of the last parting.

The proud duke of Somerset had a second wife, who one day threw her arms round his neck, and affectionately kissed him. Looking at her with haughty coldness, he said, Madam, my first wife was a Percy, and she would not have taken such a liberty!

A man once went to a lawyer's office and told the legal gentleman that he had been insulted by a man who told him to go to——, and desired to know what he should do. The lawyer suavely said: "I wouldn't advise you to go; the law doesn't compel you."

Correspondence.

THE CREAM OF AYRSHIRE MILK--DOES IT RISE SLOWLY?

I have just noticed the query of "W. A. C.," in the FARMER for Nov. 1, in relation to the time it takes for the cream to rise on the milk of Ayrshire cows. I do not remember of before hearing that it took longer for this with Ayrshires, than with any other breed of cows, and am inclined to think that the breeder referred to took this method to advertise the superior richness of the milk produced by his cows, or that there was some defect in his arrangements for setting the same, preventing the cream rising in a proper length of time. But allowing this to be the case, which I think, however, is very doubtful, I do not see how it will help the matter to mix this milk with that of any other cows, from which the cream will rise more quickly;—should prefer keeping it entirely separate, and let it take its own time for coming to the surface, assisted by a proper temperature of the room. I will investigate the matter more fully when opportunity occurs, and if anything worthy of mention is elicited, will communicate the same for the benefit of "W. A. C." and others.

E. R. TOWLE.

West Berkshire, Nov. 12.

[Mr. Towle's remarks on the note of "W. A. C.," call our attention to a typographical error in it, which (as is usual in such cases) exactly reverses the sense. "W. A. C." really said that Ayrshire milk "ought *not* to be mixed with other and quicker rising milk."—ED. VT. FARMER.]

THE CHAMPLAIN APPLE--IS IT THE PEACH APPLE?

Having grown the Champlain apple for the last 15 years, I will try to give a description of it in accordance with the editor's request, though it may not be very accurate for the reason that, their season being past, I have no specimens.

The fruit is large, oblong, ovate, conical; skin very thin—hence the old name, "paper apple," its thin skin resembling tissue paper; color lightish green (becoming yellow when fully ripe) with a dull blush on the exposed check. I cannot give the length of stalk; cavity rather deep and acute; basin small and shallow, with frequently an irregular ridge or rim projecting around it. It ripens in the valley about the middle of September, when it is an excellent cooking apple. When fully mature it is rarely equaled for the table, being sub-acid, aromatic, with an excellent vinous flavor, and very mellow. The tree is an upright grower, usually regular and conical, and a very constant bearer; leaves thick and velvety. This apple is almost, if not exactly, *identical* with the samples exhibited by the Derby nursery at the St. Johnsbury State and our (Franklin) County Fair, in 1871 under the name of the "Peach apple," in regard to which we had quite a controversy at the time; and the subject was by no means satisfactorily settled. With due respect for the enterprising nurseryman, I would like to enquire if those specimens grew on the same variety that are sold for Peach apple trees (at $1 each when two feet high) and if so whether we are not paying $1 while better trees of the same common variety, (Champlain,) are plenty at 30 to 35 cents each. If so, there is an error that has been extensive, and justice requires an explanation which should be satisfactory.

O. C. WAIT.

West Georgia, Nov. 7.

[We have never heard where Mr. Bryant claims to have got his original scions of the so-called "Peach apple." It is an old variety, long known in this country under the name of "Early Crofton," (*synonym*, "Irish Peach.") It is remarkable for its wonderful hardiness, equal to that of the Siberian apples. As to the name, Mr. Bryant has, we suppose, the *right* to offer it under its synonym, as he also offers the Duchess of Oldenburg, a popular, plentiful and well known Russian variety, under the local synonym of "New Brunswicker." He did not *coin* either of those names, and so far is not chargable with *fraud*, but the practical result (the reader must judge whether it was an *intended* result) of selling them by these little known names is to enable him to claim them as specialties and charge extra prices for them. It would really be interesting to ascertain definitely whether "Champlain Apple" and "Paper Apple" are only other synonyms of the "Early Crofton," *alias* "Irish Peach," *alias* "Bryant's Peach Apple."—ED. VT. FARMER.]

Notes and Queries.

Corn Growing like Wheat.

——"I find a great many ears of corn in my field this year growing on the end of the stalks, generally without any husks. I gathered over a bushel of such ears on half an acre. I don't know that I ever noticed it before.

C. J. K.

Stanstead, P. Q., Nov. 6."

Chambers' Cyclopedia, a large work, published in Scotland, and republished in this country, contains, as an illustration, under the head of "MAIZE," a cut professing to represent the plant, in which the ear is seen growing upon the end of the stalk in the manner of wheat, rye and barley, though without the glumes or chaff that cover the individual kernels in those grains. We supposed, when we first saw this, some ten years ago, that it was entirely a fancy sketch which the Scotch draftsman, not having a stalk of corn to draw from, had evolved from the depths of his own imagination. but we may have done him injustice. In a wet season like the present many such ears are produced, usually upon suckers, though not unfrequently upon the main stalks, and perhaps the plant when grown in the damp atmosphere of Britain, where it rarely comes to perfection, may sport in this way even more readily. It is certainly a fact that the male flowers of the spindle may be replaced by female flowers, and bear corn. When the branching spindle of the main stalk is thus transformed, we see imperfect or deformed ears, mostly; but on the suckers, where the spindle often does not branch, very well shaped ears may be found. It is likely that by saving and planting seed from these ears a variety of corn might in time be formed like that figured in the Cyclopedia, but it is questionable whether such a variety would be a desirable one.

Did he know the Difference!

A Vermont farmer carried a tub of butter to market. A buyer tried it and pronounced it to be an inferior article, and offered 17c a pound for it. The farmer, not willing to take that, carried it home, kept it a week and took it to market the second time, and offered it to another buyer. He offered him 16c. Refusing this offer he carried it to the next town and was offered 22c, but being determined to get a higher price he took it home and kept it another week. By this time he had another tub ready for market. He took the two and carried them to the first buyer and received 22c a pound for each tub.

A READER.

Fairfax, Nov. 4."

Bearded Oats.

——"Last fall, when thrashing my oats, I found that the grain from one field had beards growing out of the backs of the kernels. The beard was serrate, resembling that of barley and wheat, though there was but one to a kernel. About two-thirds of the kernels had this beard. The grain grew on a sandy flat where it was partly covered with sand and beaten down by a heavy storm, when in blossom, and I thought perhaps this had something to do with it. I noticed nothing peculiar about the seed, which was obtained from a thrifty farmer in Stanstead. Can you, or your correspondents, assign a cause?

W. H. W.

Barnston, P. Q., Nov. 6."

The Dairy.

COLLECTING STATISTICS OF THE DAIRY.

In a recent number of the *Western Farmer*, a quotation is made in regard to the importance of collecting statistics of the dairy—viz., the number of factories, the cows employed, and the quantity of cheese made annually. We regard it unfortunate for the dairy interest of America that these statistics are not more fully given in the reports of the various dairy associations, and this work, we think, properly belongs to the associations, etc.

The *Western Farmer*, after alluding to a conversation which one of the editors of that paper had with certain Ohio dairymen—owners of large farms and patrons of two cheese factories, and yet who had never attended a dairy convention, and were surprised to hear of cheese factories in Wisconsin—remarks as follows:

"Will Mr. Willard tell us how to collect statistics that shall be complete—bearing in mind that our Ohio friend is not alone—that there are other dairymen, and some factory owners, who take no agricultural paper, attend no dairy meetings, have never heard except by accident, of Mr. Willard, or any other writer on dairy matters? Another class are willing enough to get all the information they can from others, but act as if it was no one's else business what they have done in their own dairy or factory.

"One of the editors of this paper happens to be Secretary of the Northwestern Dairymen's Association. He will do what he can to collect full statistics of the dairy products of the Northwest, but he is not at all sure that he will succeed better than his predecessors. All the help that can be given in the way of making dairymen feel the importance of such statistics, and any suggestions as to the best modes of securing such statistics, he will gladly welcome."

We are aware that there are difficulties in the way of obtaining dairy statistics, and are fully satisfied that but little dependence can be placed upon getting the information desired, from voluntary contributions. We have had some experience in this line and we find there are only a few persons, comparatively, who will take the trouble of writing out a report of their own immediate operations, to say nothing of collecting statistics from others. Sometimes persons would be glad to make a report, but find difficulty in getting it in proper form to suit, and so abandon the idea altogether. The dairy association should furnish printed forms with blanks to be filled. These should be sent to all the factories which are known to the Secretary, with request that the blanks be filled and returned. But much information may be obtained by sending blanks and a printed letter to the Presidents or Secretaries of the County Agricultural Societies. A list of names of these officers may be obtained at the office of the State Agricultural Society. The Department of Agriculture at Washington issues a printed list of the various Agricultural Societies in the United States, giving the names of officers. This would be found useful in sending out circulars. Again, every town in the State could be reached by placing the requisite blanks and circulars in the hands of the several Boards of Supervisors; and this could be done through the County Clerks. The Supervisor of each town would be likely to be pretty well informed as to the number of cheese factories in his town and the cows employed in furnishing milk, etc.

By adopting some such plan as we have proposed we are inclined to think the statistics could be made tolerably complete—at least much more complete than we now get them in the dairy reports. We think, too, that at the Dairy Conventions a committee on statistics should be made, selecting some well known person from each county who is to be relied upon to collect the statistics of the counties respectively. All this will entail much labor, it is true, upon the secretaries of the various Associations; but they should be properly paid for the service.

Some years ago we furnished statistics of all the factories and cows in Herkimer county, and we were the first to obtain and print reliable returns of the quantity of cheese shipped annually from the county. This last was not such a difficult matter, since the various railroad depots and canal ports keep a record of shipments, and by applying at the several places the desired statistics were very cheerfully furnished. We have tried from time to time to have the America Dairymen's Association take measures to get the shipments of butter and cheese in the other counties of New York, but no systematic plan for obtaining this information has been adopted.

The dairymen of America, as well as the dealers who handle dairy products, are greatly in need of accurate statistics upon which to base their operations of selling and buying. Prices are largely regulated by the receipts and shipments at New York city: but these do not always indicate what is being done in the whole country. It is very important to the dairymen of the East to know how dairying is progressing in the Northwest and in Canada; and it certainly is of equal important to our Western and Northwestern friends to have a knowledge of their own progress, together with the condition of the business at the East.

We feel greatly the need of accurate statistics from year to year, and we are sure Mr. Morrow is not insensible to their importance for the dairy interest of the Northwest. In our suggestions respecting the collection of statistics we do not pretend to give the *best* plan, but only that which has occured to us as feasible. We hope the excellent Secretary of the Northwestern Association will mature a better plan than we have named, and whatever he may do in the way of making the statistics of the dairy more complete, will be very fully appreciated by us and by many others at the East who have the best interests of the dairy at heart. The *Western Farmer* is doing good service to dairymen in calling attention to this subject, and we hope that every factoryman who may read this article will send statistics of his factory operations to the Secretary of his State Dairymen's Association.—X. A. WILLARD, in *Rural New Yorker*.

FARMERS' SONS AND WHAT THEY SHOULD STUDY.

A Paper read Before the Vermont Board of Agriculture at its Meeting in Newport, August 7, 1872, by James C. Kennedy, Esq., of Troy.

No fact is much more generally known in the farming community than that farmers' boys often grow up with a decided distaste for farm pursuits. No sooner are they "of age" than they turn from the home of their growth to seek for more varied and less laborous occupations in town and city life. Thus the noble art of agriculture, which was ushered in when our first parents were expelled from Paradise, and which will only cease to be practiced when the human race becomes extinct, is yearly robbed of what should be its strength and hope; and aged parents are left in their loneliness to depend upon hireling labor to carry on the old homestead.

This state of things should not exist; for tilling the soil is, or may be made one of the most pleasing, healthful, and even intellectual pursuits in existence. If agriculture was what it might be, there would be no place where so much happiness could be secured—where there is such an opportunity for improvement, as upon the farm. Human happiness seems to consist in the healthy and harmonious exercise of all the faculties of the mind and organs of the body that God has endowed us with, and in no other single occupation can the enjoyment of existence in this respect be so well attained as in the pursuit of agriculture, taken with the broadest meaning of the term. Nowhere is there so good a position for the exercise of brain and muscle, and exercise is the grand motor power along the illimitable highway of human progress.

There are other reasons why all farmers' sons should be retained upon the farm that can be. It is necessary that this should be done in order to preserve the proper balance of power among the different vocations of mankind, and to maintain a healthy and lively action in commercial and monetary affairs. The agricultural is the most important interest of nearly every nation of importance on the globe, and should, therefore, be possessed of a like proportion of influence; yet, in the United States at least, scarcely any calling is much more poorly represented in national councils according to the number engaged in it. Farmers complain that lawyers and other professional men compose the major part of our state and national legislative bodies, and make every proceeding conform to their own interests. This is true in a great measure, but farmers have only themselves to blame in the matter. It is true also that the election of this class of men to positions of honor and trust is but the natural effect of existing causes, arising not from want of native intelligence in the tillers of the soil, but from the lack of a proper amount of general knowledge, failure in combination and co-operation, and the loss of a large portion of their intellectual stamina in the large number who annually leave their rural homes to join the ranks of non-producers. This disproportion between the producers and the non-producers is very detrimental to the prosperity of our country, inasmuch as it is the fruitful cause of the scarcity and high price of farm labor, the fluctuations and instability of the markets, and the difficulties met with by a large number in procuring their daily bread, thus giving rise to an enormous amount of speculation, fraud and crime. While the high price which farm products usually bring in the markets is advantageous to agriculturists in a pecuniary point of view, it is not favorable to agriculture. Owing to the high price of breadstuffs during late years, the difficulty in procuring farm hands, and other things, farmers have become inclined to raise and sell off all that was possible without making much effort to keep up the fertility of the soil, to bring it into a higher state of cultivation, or to improve their farms and buildings, to cause them in a measure to approach their ideal of home. This "skinning" method of farming will not answer in the future. More and better skilled labor must be obtained, and the soil must receive better cultivation. Some may say that labor-saving machines, and the muscles of immigrants—such as Irish, German, Chinese, &c., will supply all that is required in this direction. But this is not so. The very class of young men who leave the farm to engage in some professional calling is the class that must bring about the desired results. If this class could be retained, and the thousands of idlers, fops and vagabond youths, who traverse the streets of our large towns and cities, could be scattered throughout the rural portion of the country, and taught some useful labor, how different would be the condition of the country. It is a mistaken notion, also, that there is not land enough for all these to cultivate. There is land enough in the United States to furnish occupation for millions more than are now engaged in tilling it, and enough if properly cultivated to produce sufficient sustenance for all the inhabitants of a thickly settled continent.

Now as "Uncle Sam" has land enough to give every one a farm, why are so many farmers' sons averse to farming? There are doubtless many causes for this disrelish of farm pursuits, but the chief reason, methinks, lies in the fact that farming as usually conducted does not give exercise enough to the higher intellectual faculities, and that parents do not take sufficient care to make home pleasant.

There are, perhaps, a few farmers' boys, like other boys, who are disinclined to apply themselves to any useful labor, but the greater part of them would, if the pursuit for which they were most fitted was pointed out to them. Some farmers' sons after becoming of age, go away to the large cities, and there, unrestrained by home influence, or by the effects of proper intellectual and moral discipline in early life, plunge into a course of idleness, profligacy and dissipation, and extinguish in miserable graves the fires of what might have been useful lives. These persons were probably possessed of a curiosity to know of things which did not disturb the monotonous current of their thoughts in youth, and had these desires been cherished and directed to the proper objects in early life, they would have caused their possessors to have become respectable members of society.

There are some farmers' sons, however, who seem to have been born farmers. They are perfectly contented to till the soil, raise stock, &c., in the same manner as their ancestors, without troubling their minds to any great extent with other thoughs than those pertaining to their daily labors. This is very well, and just as was intended by the Giver of all good; but all are not of this stamp, for many farmers' boys should never have been farm boys at all, though they happened to have been born upon the farm. Nevertheless, all are treated about alike, and the physical and intellectual peculiarities of each are seldom taken into consideration. The strong, rough nature, the delicately organized, sensitive one, and the one with a craving hunger for intellectual and scientific knowledge, are all kept together upon the farm that they may grow up and be taught to labor out of the way of temptation.

The usual expectation is that, when the pecuniary ends of the farmer are accomplished, or the boys have grown out of his hands, they will accept a portion of so many acres each, and settle down to plod through the same routine with the next generation. Much seeming wisdom and parental affection are thus manifested; but the wisdom often proves unwise, and the affection only a mistaken form of well-developed selfishness. The possibility is that, out of a family of four or five, one may fulfill the desires of anxious parents, accept the acres, and, with the homestead in prospect, settle down to be the stay of their old age. The greater probability is however, that as soon as legally free, Nature will assert her claims in each, and they will go out into the world, seeking for the life that should have been theirs through early years of preparation for it; but, having been cheated of this preparation, neither the world nor parents need wonder if they come forth ill-developed, discontented spirits, seeking their places and finding them not.

As farming has usually been considered a business that any ignoramus might engage in successfully, it has not been thought necessary to lighten or brighten the labors of the farm by any rays of science or gleams of intelligence from the world of thought and action without. Boys on the farm, as well as in college, have a future before them, and should be educated with reference to the place in that future which their inherent capacities entitle them to fill. Parents who do not act upon this principle, will find their farm improvements paid for at a dear rate, and need not wonder to find themselves deserted and left to a lonely old age.

The class of farmers now coming upon the stage, are beginning to learn that they must advance with the times, and that they must admit science and intellect into their fields and barnyards where they want their boys to work, or the boys will soon grow restless, and long for the time when they can go forth into the world; and they will go, as generations past have found to their sorrow, unless employment is given at home to the brains as well as to the muscles. Formerly it was scarcely thought necessary for farmers to have brains at all, as any one with ordinary sense and two stout hands could work. It all did very well, perhaps, in the nice, quiet old times, when one generation trudged on after another, oblivious of the existence of elements in water, earth and air, that were waiting but for the electric touch of science to make them burst forth in a blaze of light, gleam after gleam of which has startled the agricultural world during the past twenty or thirty years.

How pertinaciously did the old time farmers shut their eyes against the light. They put up their bars, padlocked their gates, and locked their doors against any threatened innovation of science, as large numbers do at the present time. Farmers are beginning to welcome improvement, to seek for light, and to use it when they obtain it. They are learning—gradually, individually, that it is only in the light of science that labor, such as the farm requires, can be made attractive and elevating. Men and boys, it is true, can dig and plow, and sow and reap in the old ways, and make a living at them; but the farther behind the times farmers are in general knowledge, the more frequent will be the desertions from their ranks of the young and strong, who bend toward the excitement of change and improvement as young plants incline toward the light of day.

One proof that more intellectual culture is the one thing needful to make agriculture interesting to the major portion of farmers' sons, lies in the fact that many boys who have left the farm to which they were indigenous even in disgust, have years after, when they were possessed of considerable scientific and miscellaneous knowledge, chosen agriculture as a vocation for the residue of their lives, although in many instances positions of wealth and importance could be secured by them in mercantile pursuits and the more liberal professions. Many young men, also, sons of professional gentlemen, have eschewed the polished or sedentary pursuits to which they had been bred, and embraced farming as a calling.

One reason why farmers or those who intend to become farmers, should have a liberal education in the sciences, if possible, lies in the fact that they are thus enabled to make improvements in farm machinery, in the breeding of stock, in the cultivation of plants, and in the tilling of the soil which they otherwise could not. Allow me to illustrate this point by a fact or two. It is well known that a large number of valuable discoveries in relation to the growth of plants and the proper soil and fertilizers adapted to them, as well as important improvements in agricultural implements, have been made, not by farmers themselves, but by professional or scientific men. The train of ideas which resulted in these discoveries and improvements was often started in their minds while strolling about the fields and forests, or while at work in their gardens for recreation and relaxation from intellectual labor. If professional men can make improvements of so much value to farmers, how much more likely are farmers themselves to do so when possessed of the same scientific knowledge! "Necessity is the mother of invention," therefore how much more probable it is that farmers who spend their lives upon the farm will see these necessities and invent means to remove them.

Now, if the proposition which has been discussed be considered as proved, the question arises what shall farmers' sons study besides the absolutely necessary branches of knowledge usually taught in our district schools, to enable them to receive the greatest amount of happiness and attain to the highest degree of usefulness in their maturer years. Shall they study the languages—living or dead, or other classical studies, or mathematics, or metaphysics? A knowledge of these studies is of course beneficial, for nothing is useless that requires an effort of the mind to obtain possession of and retain; but are these or similar branches of knowledge the most suitable ones that farmers' sons can study to fit them to fulfill their destiny, be it on the farm or in other situations? Some one has said that children should be taught those things they will practice most in after life. If this principle is true, what can be more useful to our future farmers than the study of the natural sciences—the term being used in its broadest sense? To show how naturally farmers' sons would learn to love these studies, and how easily they might be benefited thereby, the writer will describe them as they usually appear in the retired portions of our country when about entering their teens, and note in a cursory manner their gradual development into men.

(*Concluded next week.*)

General Agriculture.

"Agricola" writes in the New York *Times*, showing how New England commission merchants take advantage of farmers. A farmer asked him to recommend a commission house to which to send some choice apples. One was named, the apples were forwarded, and Agricola was directed to call and receive the pay. When he called, the "deacon" gave him a bill of sale at $4 per barrel, less the freight and 5 per cent. commission. At this he expressed surprise as he wished to buy some of the apples for his own use. To this the deacon replied, "Call to-morrow, and we will let you have all you want."

"Why, how is this? Here is the bill of sale!"

In answer, it was admitted that the apples had not been received, but the bill was made out at the wholesale price at the cars.

"Now, do tell," said Agricola, "if this is the way fruit is sold in New York?"

With a hearty laugh, the deacon replied, "Oh, those fellows away off in the country don't know anything about the expenses of living in New York, and it really wouldn't do to let them look into all our operations. If they get a fair price for their products, they ought to be satisfied with it."

On calling the next day, the clerk charged $6.50 per barrel for the same apples, but the deacon said he could have them for $6, as he brought them the customer. So the merchant made $2 per barrel on fruit, which was sold only once, and brought the producer only $3.30; while the merchant had received his regular commission, charged in the first bill, besides.

Another instance was a gardener who consigned squashes, receiving only $1.50 per barrel. Being dissatisfied, he employed an agent to see how he could buy the same squashes of the commission merchant, and they were inflexibly held at $3 per barrel. While this agent was present, the lot was actually sold and paid for at $3 per barrel. The next day the original owner of the squashes presented his bill of sale, told what his agent had seen, and gave the merchant the choice of paying the other $1.50 per barrel or a law suit. The money was paid without a word.

The Middlebury *Register* says that for ten days past the sheep market in Addison County has been uncommonly active in consequence of the successful efforts of Messrs. Severance & Peet to make up a flock purchased from the very best breeders in the state. It is generally conceded that their selections constitute a flock of thoroughbred sheep unsurpassed by any ever shipped from Vermont. The prices of some of the sheep ran well up into the hundreds. Such a flock in skillful hands will do credit to the breeders of our state, and we believe both flock and masters will be hailed as a most valuable acquisition by all the wool growers of the Golden State, whither they are bound. We are informed that the ranche purchased by Severance & Peet upon which these sheep will be placed is located near the Central Pacific Railroad, and only two hours ride from San Francisco.

LEARNING UNNECESSARY.

A man may have all that pertains to the two great arts, "to get, to keep," without going much into any sciences. He may, by careful observation, by conversing with successful money makers, and by reading the experience of those who have accumulated handsome fortunes by cultivating land, learn the art of gathering and hoarding. It is not even absolutely necessary that he read agricultural papers. We know a farmer, now seventy years old, who has the best farm in his neighborhood and who raises the best crops, who never took an agricultural paper. It has, however, required an experience of forty years to make him a first rate farmer. He has observed closely, worked hard, and learned all he could from his neighbors. He has made two or three good farms and many thousand dollars in stocks, by his long life of management and industry. But he could have done much better if he had read a little more, and not depended so much on his own hard-earned experience. For another farmer in another place, with less than half his experience, who constantly reads and applies what he learns cautiously in practice, is a better farmer already, and makes more money.

PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURE DURING THE LAST DECADE.

Our increase in all the chief articles of agricultural produce, as shown by the census report is something enormous.

Wine has increased fourteen-fold since 1850, and nearly doubled in the last decade, California being its chief producer.

Hops have increased seven-fold in the same time, and more than doubled in the last ten years, New York growing two-thirds of the whole crop.

Barley has increased six-fold.

Flax six-fold, and flaxseed trebled.

Wheat trebled, and oats doubled.

Irish potatoes have only increased one-third, and sweet decreased one-half.

Live stock have trebled in value, and now amount to the handsome total of one thousand five hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars, or an average of nearly two hundred dollars for every family in the nation.

Animals slaughtered have nearly quadrupled in value, now amounting to four hundred millions of dollars annually.

Wool has increased from sixty to one hundred millions of pounds.

Cotton is half a million of bales above what it was in 1850, and three-fifths of its amount in 1860.

In only one instance is there a decrease of an important produc', and that is in Indian corn, which falls short of the amount reported in 1860 by seventy-eight millions of bushels, or ten per cent of the whole.

In some of the lesser products, however, the downcome is considerable. Silk cocoons are only a third of their former amount, hemp a sixth, peas and beans and rice about a third each. Buckwheat has decreased from seventeen millions of bushels to nine, and rye from twenty-one millions of bushels to sixteen.

LIVE AND DEAD WEIGHT OF ANIMALS.

The amount of meat obtained from a domestic animal sold by its live weight is very variable, and experiments have recently been made in Liverpool to ascertain the proper allowances to be made. From the statistics to be derived from the public slaughter-houses, or abattoirs, of Paris and Brussels, it appears that the race and the condition of the animal, besides many other circumstances, affect the result, and that certain animals yield as much as 70 per cent. of meat, while others only give 50 per cent. The mean weight of meat produced, however, is calculated at 58 per cent. of the live weight in beef cattle. In the case of sheep, the proportion is from 40 to 50 per cent. From experiments made, it appears that the different products obtained from oxen and sheep are as follows: An ox of the live weight of 1,322 pounds yields, meat, 771.4 pounds; skin, 110.2; grease, 88; blood, 55.1; feet and hoofs, 22; head, 11; tongue, 6.60; lungs and heart, 15.33; liver and spleen, 20.05; intestines, 66.15; loss and evaporation, 154.322—making the total of 1.322 pounds. The products from a sheep weighing 110.2 pounds are as follows: Meat, 55.1 pounds; skin, 7.714; grease, 5.51; blood, 4.408; feet and hoofs, 2.204; head, 4.408; tongue, lungs, heart, liver and spleen, 4.408; intestines, 6.612; loss and evaporation, 19.836—making the total of 110.2 pounds.

Somebody has dug up a copy of the first edition of Dryden's translation of Virgil, in which there is an engraving representing men dragging a load of hay, while all around are the sick, dying and dead horses,—things, in fact, looking pretty much as they do now. The translation of the third book of the Georgics gives the symptoms of this ancient epizootic, and they are quite similar to those of the present disease.

Ladies' Department.

We particularly desire contributions to this column upon all subjects interesting to our lady readers.

YOUNG AMERICA WONDERS.

I wonder what makes papa tell such nice stories to visitors about his hiding his master's rattan when he went to school, and about his running away from the school mistress when she was going to whip him, and then shut me up all day in a dark room because I tried, just once, to be as smart as he had been?

Wonder what made papa say that wicked word when Betsey upset the ink all over his paper, and then slapped my ears when I said the same thing when my kite string broke?

Wonder why mamma told Bridget, the other day, to say she was not at home when Tommy Day's mother called, and then puts me to bed without my supper every time I tell a lie?

RECIPES.

Cider Vinegar.

Cider is the only real article to use for vinegar, and there is but one sure way of making cider into good vinegar quick. That is by *starting* with good vinegar.

Get ten gallons of good vinegar, and put one gallon of good cider into it every week until the cask is full, then draw off a gallon of the vinegar each time before putting in the cider. In this way vinegar is made rapidly and surely, and with no possibility of loss; for the strong vinegar acts on the fresh cider at once. Besides, one knows that there is nothing unwholesome used in the process, and good pure vinegar will be on hand ready for use all the time.

Flavoring with Lemon.

One of the best housekeepers we know, says the *Hearth and Home*, has told us of her method of producing lemon flavoring. She never throws lemon skins away, after making lemonade, lemon pie, etc., but always, while the skins are yet fresh, shaves off the yellow surface with a sharp penknife, taking as little of the white part as possible. These small yellow shavings are then sprinkled upon a warm plate, and as soon as they are dry they are put into a muslin bag. When required for use, whatever quantity may be needed at the time is ground into a fine powder, and this powder makes the best lemon flavoring, our friend says, that she has met with. Orange peel may be successfully treated precisely in the same way. This same lady preserves lemon juice for flavoring by mixing it with sugar without cooking it, until it becomes a thick syrup. It is then ready to be put in bottles and sealed. Orange juice may be kept for weeks in like manner.

Keeping Eggs for Winter Use.

To four gallons of boiling water add half a peck of new lime, stirring some little time. When cold remove any hard lumps by a coarse sieve; add ten ounces of salt and three ounces of cream tartar and mix the whole thoroughly. The mixture is then to stand for a fortnight before using. The eggs are to be packed as closely as possible, and to be kept closely covered up. Thus treated, if put in when new laid, at nine months they will eat quite as good as though laid only six days, though of course not quite like *new*-laid.—*Illustrated Book of Poultry.*

Apple Cream.

Boil twelve apples in water till soft, take off the peel, and press the pulp through a hair sieve, upon half a pound of pounded sugar; whip two eggs, add them to the apples, and beat all together till it becomes very stiff and looks quite white. Serve it heaped up on a dish.

Plum Jelly.

Take as many plums as you have and pour sufficient boiling water over them to cover them. Pour off the water immediately, draining them. Put your plums in a preserving kettle with boiling water enough to cover them again, and then boil till the plums begin to open, and some juice is extracted. Then pour off the liquid and strain it, and add to each pound of juice one pound of white sugar; return to the kettle and boil it from twenty minutes to half an hour, as it may require, and you will have most delicious jelly. The plums may be used for pies or sauce.

Molasses Candy.

This is the season of the evening socials, and "candy pulling" is often the element of the happy entertainment. An exchange suggests the following mode of making the "taff," which is a decided improvement on the old process, that requires from one to three hours to complete it. For a small number, say four persons, the following quantities will answer; for a larger, increase proportionally: One teacupful of molasses, half a teacupful of any kind of sugar, a teaspoonful of vinegar, a piece of butter the size of a half nutmeg. Put the whole in a skillet, on a hot fire, and boil exactly ten minutes, stirring it all of the time, then set it off to cool. Pull it as soon as it is hard enough. If you want some nice candy to eat, add a teacupful of hickory nut kernels to the above compound and stir while hot. Let it cool and it is then ready for use.

Apples in Imitation of Ginger.

To three pounds of very hard apples, take two pounds of loaf sugar, and a quarter of a pound of best white ginger. Put these in layers (having first sliced the apples in eight pieces and cored them) alternately in a wide-mouthed jar. Next day infuse an ounce of white ginger, well bruised, in about a pint of boiling water; let it stand till next day. Then put the apples, that have been two days in the ginger, into a preserving kettle, and turn over them the water from the bruised ginger. Simmer slowly until the apples look clear. Take great care not to break the pieces. If closely covered, over a slow fire, half an hour will cook them enough without needing to stir them. Put into jars, and cover tightly while boiling hot. Let the bits of ginger remain in the syrup until it is served.